Vacancies of Drivers etc. in Railways

284. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:
SHRI KHAGEN DAS:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item titled, "Rele bohu loker chakri hobe" appering in Bartaman dated 21.1.2000;

(b) if so, the number of vacancies in the category of gangman and driver as well as in signal and loco departments, as per the above report;

(c) the number of posts vacant under SC/ST and disabled categories; and

(d) the time-schedule for filling up the above posts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

(d) Filling up of vacancies including that of Gangman, Driver, Signal, Loco, SC/ST, Physically Handicapped, etc. is a continuous process as vacancies keep on arising and are filled up as per requirement. Since filling up of vacancies is a continuous process, there will always be some posts still remaining to be filled up. Instructions have been issued to the Railways, which have also been reiterated from time to time, to fill up the vacancies expeditiously. A special recruitment drive for filling up the vacancies of physically handicapped persons has been undertaken in January, 2000.